

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EGEN, NI
SUBJECT: ECONOMIC BILATERAL TALKS--HEALTH

REF: STATE 97502

1. AS BACKGROUND FOR DELEGATION PAPER ON HEALTH ISSUE, EMBASSY SUBMITS THE FOLLOWING:

A. U.S. OBJECTIVE IS TO MAKE NIGERIANS AWARE THAT WE HAVE DONE MUCH TO RAISE THE LEVEL OF HEALTH CARE IN THE NATION AND THAT WE INTEND TO CONTINUE THIS EFFORT, ESPECIALLY IN FAMILY HEALTH, TRAINING OF HEALTH TECHNICIANS AND ERADICATION OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES.

B. NIGERIAN OBJECTIVE IS TO ELICIT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR ITS BASIC HEALTH SERVICES PROGRAM, EPIDEMIOLOGICAL AND HEALTH STATISTICS PROGRAM, ITS DIAGNOSTIC TECHNIQUES PROGRAM AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF FIVE TEACHING HOSPITALS.

C. ESSENTIAL FACTORS ARE THAT NIGERIA IS AT POINT OF SWITCHING EMPHASIS FROM LARGE, NEW HOSPITALS TO ESTABLISHING SMALL BASIC HEALTH CENTERS AROUND THE COUNTRY. CARE AND TRAINING PROGRAMS MUST BE RESHAPED TO MAKE LATTER APPROACH SUCCEED. STATISTICAL AND IAGNOSTIC CAPABILITY IS VERY LIMITED AND TRAINING IN THESE

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CATEGORIES IS ESPECIALLY SOUGHT. SALIENT PROBLEMS INCLUDE HIGH PREVALENCE OF DISEASES THAT COULD BE PREVENTED BY BETTER NUTRITION AND SANITATION, HIGH MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE, SHORTAGE OF NURSES DUE TO POOR PAY AND BENEFITS, MALDISTRIBUTION OF MEDICAL PERSONNEL, LACK OF COORDINATION AMONG HEALTH SERVICES, SHORTAGE AND GEOGRAPHIC IMBALANCE OF HEALTH CARE FACILITIES, INSUFFICIENT REVENTATIVE HEALTH CARE AND EDUCATION. POPULATION PLANNING IS

STILL A SENSITIVE ISSUE AND SHOULD BE APPROACHED AS PART OF
OVERALL FAMILY HEALTH COUNSELING.

D. TALKING POINTS. USG AND PRIVATE U.S. INSTITUTIONS HAVE FOR A
LONG TIME BEEN ACTIVE IN ASSISTING NIGERIA'S HEALTH CARE CAPABILITY
WITH TECHNICAL, MATERIAL AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT. WE WOULD LIKE TO
CONTINUE OUR COOPERATION IN RAISING NIGERIA'S HEALTH STANDARDS. SPECIAL
FIELDS OF INTEREST TO US ARE FAMILY HEALTH, TRAINING OF
TECHNICIANS, DEVELOPMENT OF A STATISTICAL SYSTEM AND REDUCTION
OF COMMUNICABLE AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES. NIGERIA MUST BE SPECIFIC
IN STATING ITS PRIORITY NEEDS.

2. DR. ABDULKADER BABATUNDE SULAIMEN, THE SOLE HEALTH OFFICIAL OF
THE FMG DELEGATION, IS DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL HEALTH PLANNING. BORN
MAY 17, 1938, IN ILORIN, KWARA STATE, HE RECEIVED HIS FIRST DEGREE
FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN. BACHELOR'S AND MASTER'S DEGREES IN
SCIENCE AND A DOCTORATE OF HEALTH WERE OBTAINED IN LONDON. HE
ALSO RECEIVED A CERTIFICATE IN FAMILY PLANNING IN LONDON
IN 1972. AMONG THE POSITIONS HE HAS HELD IN NIGERIA WAS CONSULTANT
PHYSICIAN IN ENVIRONMENTAL AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH IN THE FEDERAL
MINISTRY OF HEALTH. HE IS A MEMBER OF THE NIGERIAN MEDICAL
ASSOCIATION, BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, THE SOCIETY OF OCCUPATIO-
NAL HEALTH OF BRITAIN, ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY PHYSICIANS OF
NIGERIA, AND THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION EXPERT COMMITTEE ON
OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH.
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